

# HMLA-469 STATEMENT ON SAFETY



## **MARINES — PROFESSIONAL AND READY**

- BE THE MARINE, A PROFESSIONAL WARRIOR.
- WHO DEPENDS ON YOU?
- ARE YOU READY TO FIGHT TONIGHT?
- READY MINDS, BODIES, FAMILIES, MACHINES

**"ATTACK WITH VENGEANCE"**

The Marines Corps' business is inherently risky. As an aviation unit, we assume even greater risks. It is for this reason that Risk management, both operational and tactical shall be the foundation of all Vengeance operations. We shall mitigate the risks associated with training, maintenance, logistical movements, and especially the often neglected risks that lurk around off duty activities and recreation. Simply put, we will be professionals. Safety is a byproduct of professionalism. Tactical execution is safe execution. Gone is the day when Marines confused tactical with cavalier. The blue threat and red threat will be mitigated in the execution of any tactically excellent plan. No unacceptable risk will be tolerated.

**On Duty:** Professionalism is the bedrocks of a safe unit. As professionals, Vengeance Marines and Sailors execute "by the book." Our policies and procedures (NATOPS, 4790, MIMS, Marine Corps Orders, SOPs, etc.) are established to identify the correct, effective, and safe way to accomplish a task. They tell us in black and white how to do what we need to do. If you find yourself operating in the gray, then ask for help. I will never ask you to assume risk by operating in the gray. If a policy or procedure is confusing, ambiguous, or unclear, then I owe you a decision so that you can operate in the realm of black and white.

**No training mission or activity is so important as to risk the life or safety of a Marine or Sailor, or damage our vital equipment.** Vengeance shall utilize Operational and Tactical Risk Management (ORM/TRM) when planning and executing every mission. Risk management must be deliberate. Assess risk and incorporate appropriate risk mitigation techniques. When time does not allow for a deliberate assessment, leaders must conduct real-time ORM assessments, ensure risks are identified and mitigated, or stop the event. Risk management is a mindset of continuous risk-conscious vigilance that pervades all our activities. Learn from the mistakes of other units who have conducted similar activities. Pass on what we learn to higher headquarters and adjacent units, so that they may learn from our experiences.

**Off Duty:** In recent years, off duty safety incidents have had an increasingly negative effect on unit morale and readiness. The misuse and abuse of alcohol remains the number one contributor to unsafe acts and activities away from the workplace. This is followed closely by accidents involving motorcycles. Always remember, we are Marines. Be the Marine every moment of your life, especially on leave and liberty.

Marines who develop a leave/liberty plan, and then execute according to that plan rarely find themselves in harm's way. The Marines who fail to plan, and execute on a whim, regularly find themselves either at the hot gates on Monday morning, or worse yet, in the hospital or morgue. Lead...Lead yourself, lead your peers, and lead your subordinates. If you are unfamiliar with the leave and liberty plans of the Marines in your charge, then you are wrong. Know their plan. Help them plan. It is likely that you have many experiences they do not. Share those experiences with them; that is what leaders do.

### **Expectations of all Vengeance Marines and Sailors:**

1. Execute professionally. Safety is a byproduct of professionalism.
2. Managing risk requires the commitment of all personnel to be successful.
3. Every Marine and Sailor is empowered to stop an unsafe act.
4. Identify hazards and take action to correct them.
5. Halt any event, operation, or exercise if injury to personnel or damage to equipment may result. Trust your instincts!
6. Question everything. Aggressively challenge the actions of others if unsafe conditions become apparent.
7. Safety **MUST NOT**, and **WILL NOT**, be sacrificed for expediency or convenience.
8. Be accountable for your actions.

***Nothing we do in training or off duty is worth losing a member of the Vengeance family.  
You are your brother's keeper!***

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